

THE COST OF LIVING

A MATTER ABOUT WHICH THERE ARE ERRONEOUS OPINIONS.

Whatever Increase There Has Been in Five Years Due Entirely to Natural Causes.

SOME COMPARISONS MADE

THE "BOGEY MAN" THIS YEAR IS THE PRICE OF BEEF.

Cost of Men's and Women's Clothing Varies According to Caprice—Other Features.

It is the general impression that the cost of living has materially increased in the last five years and especially in the last year, and inquiry has been made to ascertain to what extent this idea is justified by facts. Men who have been identified with the leading business concerns of the city for a number of years and who have perfect knowledge regarding such important branches of the subject as the rates of rents for houses and apartments, the prices of the leading table supplies and the cost of clothing claim that while there has been a material increase in the last five years it is due entirely to natural causes. They further say that ever since business houses have been in existence during a period of every five or ten years the aggregate price of everything when reduced to an average will show an increase. The principal reason for this is that the population of the country is steadily growing, the uninhabited regions of the West are continually being settled and every country village is now spreading out and taking on the ways of a prosperous town and every small town has the aspect of a city.

With this growth in population the demand for the necessities of life naturally becomes greater and the prices of course, increase accordingly, for it is through the demand that all market prices are regulated. It is also shown that people are buying a better grade of goods and buying more in every line than they did five years ago; in fact, this can be said of as short a time as last year. Merchants generally say although the dollar is looked upon as the dull season it has not proven so this year, for they are now selling as much as during any time in the year, and considerably more than for the last ten summers. With this increased demand it takes more men to handle the business, and it is shown that wages have also increased over what they were five or six years ago, and this likewise tends to raise the prices of things mostly in demand.

NO TENEMENT HOUSES.

Indianapolis has no tenement houses for its laboring people, but most all that class live in small cottages consisting of from two to six rooms, for which they pay \$6 to \$10 a month. These kind of houses are mostly situated near the outskirts of the city, but for those centrally located a higher rent is demanded. The rents for these cottages have practically remained stationary for the last three years. There is an excellent demand now for new flats and medium-sized houses that range in price of rent from \$10 to \$15 per month. The call for the better class of flats is always good and a very good class of tenants is obtained. For families to live in flats has become so popular in this city in the last few years that it is seldom the case that an apartment in one of them is every found vacant. Most all of the flats in this city are centrally located, and the rents paid for them are comparatively low when considered with those of other cities. About the average rent paid for these apartments is \$30 a year, while for the larger and more desirable \$20 a year is charged. There has been a great amount of flat building here, and with it an increase of conveniences and luxuries, for which people in the recent prosperous times have been willing to pay.

As one real-estate agent said, there is always a demand here for a dwelling or apartment at a fair price, and if one person is unwilling to rent, there is always another can and will. There has been an increase of about 10 to 12 per cent. in the rents for the better grades of dwellings. This rise is occasioned by the scarcity of vacant houses, for landlords claim that they have fewer of them this year than at any time during the last ten years. There has never been as few houses for rent as this summer, and it is next to impossible to find a vacant house in any part of the city, and this can particularly be said of the northeastern and southern sections. Rent agents say that there is nothing which shows more conclusively that Indianapolis is growing than the fact that the demand for houses is greater than the supply. The medium-sized house that ranges in the price of rents of from \$10 to \$15 a month is the most popular, and of this kind there are hardly any vacant. About the only dwelling that can be procured now is the large modern house that the flat takes the place of, and there is not an overabundance of them. It is said that the slight increase of rents in the better class of dwellings and apartments is not wholly due to the demand, but to the people's willingness to pay more for better accommodations.

ADVANCE IN BEEF PRICES.

The advance in the price of beef this year and the controversy connected with it are familiar to all. Under ordinary conditions, according to reliable authorities, beef averages about two-thirds of all of the meat consumed, and its present dearthness is the chief cause of the high prices for other meats and poultry. It is difficult to get trustworthy average figures of the cost of meats any considerable number of years ago, but they were generally higher in 1901 than in 1900. This year the difference is very marked. As compared with a year ago, by the figures of an extensive and high-class retail butcher firm, beef is higher by from 2 to 5 cents a pound, and there is by from 1 to 2 cents a pound, lamb by 2 cents a pound, fresh pork and all pork products by about 2 cents a pound, while veal is selling the same as last year. Since the rise in the price of meats has gone into effect the trade has fallen off about one-third. The demand for smoked meats has greatly increased, and, therefore, the price of ham has advanced 1 cent a pound, while bacon has gone up 2 cents, but the increase in these meats is only natural, because they are always in favor during hot weather. All salted pork likewise has slightly gone up in price. Poultry has undergone an advance over what it was a year ago. Full-grown hens are now selling 2 cents a pound higher than they did last year and spring

TRACY, THE OREGON OUTLAW.



Harry Tracy and David Merrill escaped from the Oregon Penitentiary on June 9, by killing three guards and wounding a prisoner. After numerous encounters with citizens, militiamen, sheriffs and deputies, they crossed the State into Washington on June 25. Tracy killed Merrill in the forest near Napavine, Wash. Since then he has eluded the vigilance of his pursuers, sometimes shooting his way to freedom and at other times tricking them with all the craftiness of a hunted stag. He is credited with having killed fourteen men.

chickens are from 2 to 4 cents higher. The reason for this is that on account of the bad weather there was no early production of spring chickens. The principal reason, however, that poultry has so generally advanced in price is because of the large demand for it and the scarcity of the supply. Eggs and butter are higher than they have been for some time. On the former the advance has been 2 cents a dozen and on the latter from 1 cent to 2 cents a pound. When the prices of meat rose the demand for eggs increased, for many used them to take its place. Those who are prominent dealers in poultry, butter and eggs say that the selling was never heavier than now, and that while the prices have so materially gone up, trade has not fallen off a particle and the demand greatly exceeds the supply.

PRICE OF GROCERIES.

Wholesale grocers unite in declaring that there has been no considerable advance in the cost of groceries in the last few years. In fact, many of the staples are now selling for much less than they did a year ago. During the Spanish-American war, of course, there was a great demand created for canned beans, meats and for such staples as sugar, coffee, flour and so on, which made the prices rise to a certain extent, but as soon as the war closed and the market again became normal, the prices settled back to where they formerly were. In the grocery line the principal advance has been in canned goods, and the reason for this is the short pack last season, which was occasioned by the long drought during the middle of the summer. If, however, there has been any increase in groceries as a whole, it is very slight, being divided up as it is among so many different commodities, some of which have not advanced, while others are lower than usual. It is said that the prices of groceries as purchased by the ordinary individual, have not been as cheap in eight or ten years as now. Flour is in the neighborhood of \$4 a barrel and it was about this price last year. All sugars have been greatly reduced, and this can principally be said of granulated, which is selling for 12 per cent. less than it did a year ago. Coffees are lower than they have been in the last ten years, and every grade is now selling for about 10 per cent. less than a year ago, while tea is slightly higher. Oatmeal is a little higher than it was a short time since, while tapioca is said to be lower than it has been in the last twenty years. All farinaceous foods, particularly oats, show an advance. Maple products and honey are cheap. So are prunes and various other things used as relishes.

CANNED GOODS A FACTOR.

Canned goods are becoming one of the greatest factors in the grocery store, and every household as well, for they afford people the opportunity of having fruits and vegetables at all seasons of the year for a small sum. Even after fruits and vegetables become so abundant they are sold at such prices for the first month or so after they make their appearance on the market that if it wasn't for the canned goods the man in moderate circumstances would seldom taste anything of the kind until late in the season. Canned goods, which in general are growing in importance as a feature in the food supply—and there is an especially large demand for the better qualities on account of the remarkable increase in consumption—show an advance of probably 10 per cent. This can principally be said of corn and peas. For tomatoes the price has increased greater than for anything else, which, however, is wholly accounted for by the disastrous season last year. In the last few years there has been a great improvement in the average quality of many of the articles canned, and some of them may be classed among the luxuries of food. Dried fruits show no change over last year, except in some of the small fruits, which have recently advanced on account of the damaged crops of the last two months, which has reduced the market

to such an extent that the prices have risen on the products which are now on sale. In the wholesale markets for fruits and vegetables it is said to be almost impossible to strike an average in prices and compare them for any number of years, as the rates for such perishable commodities vary so frequently, according to crops, weather, the general conditions of supplies and demand, and owing to the fact that some seasons some things are very high and others low. Moreover, the prices vary sharply according as the market is flooded or short in consequence of the action of shippers. In the vegetable market the greatest change may take place in prices within the short space of three hours. It is an ordinary thing for a change of 25 per cent. to occur in wholesale prices within twenty-four hours. If the receipts are heavy the telephone and telegraph carry the news over the country in a very short time, and most shippers then send to other points, with the result that the supplies here are scanty and the prices quickly advance. Then, too, products which are dear at the beginning of the season are vastly cheaper later on. This city is as favored by shippers as any in the country and the very best of everything is received here. The ample railroad accommodations and the quick transportation from all points at all seasons of the year make it an easy matter for shippers from all over the country to get their products here before they have lost their freshness.

APPLES ARE FINE.

The commission merchants say that apples are some higher this year than last, but they are of a much finer quality. Watermelons, cantaloupes and muskmelons are selling for about what they did last year. All kinds of berries were high this season on account of the light crops, which were caused to a certain extent by its being too dry and hot during the berry months. One reason that the prices of vegetables and fruits keep high is that people demand them out of season; but unreasonable articles are not as expensive now as they were some years ago, because we have green beans and tomatoes from the South all the year through, and a number of other vegetables are only absent from the market about ninety days out of the whole twelve months. So that now the novelty of having green vegetables on the table in the dead of winter has somewhat worn off. But for exceptionally fine specimens of unseasonable things, such as are brought on the tables of men who always want the very best, regardless of cost, high prices always have to be paid. There is in some lines such a variety of supplies a shortage in some particular vegetable is easily made up by plenty in others. If a customer cannot afford to pay for what he went to market

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LONG TO BE AUTHORS

MANY INDIANAPOLITANS AMBITIOUS IN THIS WAY.

Manuscripts by the Hundreds Go to the Publishers of Eastern Magazines and Periodicals.

MANY OF THEM COME BACK

THE SUCCESS OF A PECULIAR BUSINESS MADE POSSIBLE.

Agencies Where Manuscripts Are Read and Revised—Demand for Short Stories.

"Do you know, it's my honest opinion that half the people in Indianapolis are ambitious in a literary way?" remarked one of the employees of the postoffice the other day while on duty. "You would be astonished to see the vast number of bulky envelopes that pass through the local mail service on their way to the various magazine publishers all over the country, and also the vast number of bulky envelopes, with the names of the various magazines printed in the upper left-hand corners, that are delivered to people throughout the city from day to day—rejected manuscripts, I suppose. I don't know that all this is a proof of the city's standing as a literary center, for the conditions may be similar in other cities of the same size, but it does strike me that there must be a wonderful amount of literary work going on in this town. The addresses on the envelopes which are mailed to the publishers are in all sorts of handwriting, from the bold, round hand of the business man, to the faint, cursive style of the schoolgirl, showing that all kinds of people are having occasional literary inspirations."

The postoffice employee was probably right in his surmise, for R. J. Graham, who is associated with a New York "manuscript reading" concern, and who was in the city during the last week, says that a surprising number of manuscripts are received by his company from Indiana in general and Indianapolis in particular, and that several magazine editors have spoken to him of the tendency of Indiana people of all classes to make at least one effort at story writing. "It's the popularity of the short story in this country that causes so many people to tackle literature, whether they are out for that sort of work or not," said Mr. Graham. "The man or woman that wouldn't dream of undertaking the writing of a novel or the composing of a poem will dash off a short story and see it into some magazine with perfect assurance. I've discovered that six out of every ten educated persons believe themselves capable of writing successful short pieces of fiction. I'll venture to say that the rejected manuscripts received in this city within one week's time would, if strung together and printed in book form, make up as big a volume as Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. And in saying this I do not cast any reflections upon Indianapolis, for it is becoming a well-known fact that there are a number of very successful story writers here."

MANY ARE REJECTED.

"For every one manuscript that is accepted for publication by an editor, however, there are a hundred or two that come hustling back to their original owners just about as quickly as Uncle Sam's excellent mail service can engineer the matter. It's an ill wind that blows nobody good, and the fast-increasing army of struggling short-story writers has made possible the success of a peculiar business that was almost unknown in the United States ten years ago. I refer to the business of manuscript reading, correcting, revising, etc., for the purpose of making salable matter out of literary stuff that had previously been a drug on the market. Ten years ago James Knapp Reeve, of Franklin, O., was about the only person in America who conducted a business of this sort. Of course, there were manuscript agents, making a living by acting as middlemen between authors and publishers, but there were no agencies whose principal claim upon existence was the 'dressing up' and 'whipping into shape' of crude literary material. Just consider how things have changed. There are a dozen concerns of this kind in New York to-day, two or three in Chicago, one in Philadelphia, one in Washington, one in Detroit and two right here in Indianapolis. "You mustn't think that these agencies are patronized altogether by writers that have met with discouragements, however. On the contrary, there are many literary people who send their productions to the company, with which I am connected, before even submitting them to the magazines. Many manuscripts fail of accept-

PARTICIPANTS IN ALLEGED SCANDAL.



MRS. AILEEN ELLIS O'MALLEY AND WILLIAM J. HEARIN.

The recent arrest of Mrs. O'Malley, wife of Dr. Austin O'Malley, a Notre Dame University professor, while she was on a train with W. J. Hearin, a Cornell student, caused a sensation in South Bend, Ind., where she is well known. Her husband is ill, and it was alleged he had been poisoned. Enemies of Mrs. O'Malley said Hearin was her lover and accused her of attempting to elope. None of the charges has been substantiated, and Mrs. O'Malley has been released on bond at Philadelphia. She is now with her relatives in New York.

ance because of certain defects which are not apparent to the authors themselves, and some of the successful writers prefer having a reputable agency criticize and point out these defects, and then dispose of the manuscripts after the weak spots have been eliminated and the rough edges smoothed over. Of course the agency receives a certain fee for its criticism and a certain per cent. of the price secured when the manuscript has been accepted for publication. There are some agencies that are not altogether "on the square," and the inexperienced literary aspirant would do well to make sure of the standing of the manuscript concern to whom he intrusts the fruits of his pen—or typewriter. No reputable agency will even consider a manuscript that, on the face of it, appears totally worthless, but there are some less conscientious "literary bureaus" that receive fees from writers whose work could never prove marketable, no matter how it might be corrected, revised and rewritten.

"The purpose of the legitimate manuscript agency is to ascertain what merit there is in the story, to point out the defect which would be likely to cause its rejection, to suggest better arrangement of a different treatment, to name a probable purchaser and in whatever way possible to aid the author in getting his work accepted for publication. Many manuscripts of real merit fail to impress an editor favorably because they are offered to the wrong publication or at an inopportune time. It's the agents' business to become well acquainted with the wants of the various publishers, and to closely observe the peculiar style of work that appeals to them. Some of the so-called manuscripts that have been turned over to me personally for consideration were something awful to contemplate, and I have sometimes risen from my desk after a siege of that sort of thing with the firm conviction that all the world was mad and that I was one of the biggest idiots in it for ever getting into such a nerve-debilitating business."

LITERARY BUREAUS.

"Whenever you see a 'literary bureau' advertising that it will guarantee the sale of all manuscripts sent in to it for editing and revision, you may just put that concern down as a fake on the spot. There isn't any concern of the kind in the country that can promise without fail to sell the manuscripts turned over to it for disposal. If a manuscript is meritorious the chances are that the agent, or middleman, will manage to get it accepted even if, but even he, with all his experience in submitting the 'right stuff' to the right editor, is likely to have his troubles occasionally. I know of a story written by a clever Boston writer that is still being

offered for examination to different leading editors after a dozen unprofitable trips to editorial workshops. I would have staked a good deal upon that story's immediate acceptance when I finished reading it over, for it impressed me as strong in every way and written in excellent style, but it evidently hasn't struck the editors that have read it in the same favorable manner. There is no doubt in the world that really good short stories are in great demand, so why shouldn't anybody that cares to undertake the job make a trial at writing one, if he has any taste or talent for work of that kind? But there are some things that novices at story-writing would do well to bear in mind if they want to save themselves a lot of worry and postage stamps. The busy editors of the best publications who pay good money for what they want, are not going to put themselves to the trouble of doing what the author should do in the first place. Good material is not so scarce but that editors can supply their needs without involving themselves in superfluous labor. If you are writing a story that you hope to have published, be sure to submit a correct manuscript—correct in paragraphing, punctuation, spelling, the use of capitals, etc., and have a type copy, if possible, with good wide margins. The big fellows like Hall Caine can afford to submit outlandish manuscripts, but the smaller fry—never!"

WAYFARING WAYS.

Courtesy is not a commodity to be recklessly distributed it appears, but, in certain walks of life, is regulated according to gratitude and other fleeting sentiments known to the practical human breast. The other morning a lady who has a commendable weakness for rising early to enjoy the dewy hours of these hot July days was surprised by a call at the kitchen door from a well-dressed tramp. He tipped his hat very pleasantly and asked the favor of something to eat. The housekeeper responded graciously, asked the man to sit down on the porch and the retired to her pantry, where she buttered some delicate slices of good bread, placing between them thin layers of excellent veal loaf left over from a picnic luncheon of the day previous. Thinking the man might prefer to carry the food with him, she wrapped it neatly in clean manila paper and carried it out to him. Without any enthusiasm or remarks whatever the respectable tramp surveyed the parcel and said: "Ain't you going to give any coffee?" "It is too early for coffee," the lady answered. "My cook hasn't come yet and our kitchen fire is not going."

As the man picked himself up and started off the now irritated housewife said: "Haven't you forgotten something?" "No," he called out cheerily over his shoulder as he went around the house, "I never say thanks at places where I don't get coffee."

July 4, 1776.

Landon Knight, in Woman's Home Companion. "The 4th day of July, 1776, arrives, and every member is in his seat. No, Caesar Rodney, of Delaware, does not answer the roll call as his name is called. A week before he had gone home to get influences to bear on one of his colleagues who opposed the resolution. The night before 'Thomas Jefferson and Dr. Franklin had sent post-haste for Rodney to come if he wished to have the resolution adopted. Rodney decided it. And now, as the friends of the measure looked upon his empty seat, there was the resolution, 'Caesar Rodney, of Delaware,' called the clerk, and in ringing tones the debate begins, and waxed warmer as the day grows; the noon recess is forgotten; the calm, telling logic of John Adams, the quaint, clear sentences of Dr. Franklin, the impassioned oratory of Henry, are all falling upon attentive ears. Never was there a scene witnessed as that now being enacted here. There is no confusion, no excitement, but the gravity of the occasion rests heavily upon all. Now the hour has arrived. The roll call has begun. Dearest to the clerk, and in ringing tones the reply comes, 'Caesar Rodney votes aye.' The roll call continues; is finished. The Declaration of Independence is adopted, and the United States of America is born as a nation upon the earth!"

HOW THE CHINESE COOK

THEY HAVE A WAY OF PREPARING SAVORY DISHES.

A Vast Difference in the Food Eaten by the Rich and Poor Classes in the Oriental Country.

MOY KEE HAS A NEW CHEF

HE TALKS AT LENGTH CONCERNING HIS PROFESSION.

The Chinese Use Pork in Many Different Forms—Tea Almost the Only Beverage.

When Moy Kee, the one Indianapolis Chinaman of high caste and education, started a little Chinese restaurant on East Washington street he was not thoroughly convinced that his new enterprise would meet with success, but, as he says himself, he decided to give the thing a trial, anyway, and to trust to his ability as a shrewd business man to "win out" in the end. And it seems that Moy Kee is winning out, for during the last week he has had several Caucasian workmen busily engaged in remodeling the interior of his little eating house and otherwise improving its general appearance. One sultry afternoon a few days ago Moy Kee—who, by the way, greatly resembles the comic opera comedian, Louis Harrison, as he used to appear in "The Pearl of Peiking"—was discovered by a newspaper man hustling about energetically but noiselessly among a debris of discarded Oriental lanterns and other decorations that has just been taken down from the walls, giving orders to the workmen high up on the stepladders over his head, while little Mrs. Moy Kee, the pride of Indianapolis's Chinatown, sat on a high three-legged stool, her tiny feet perched on the top round well out of reach of the dusty floor as she surveyed with wide-open almond eyes the transformation scene that was gradually taking place.

Yes, business had been good, Moy Kee was happy to say. Indianapolis people had taken kindly to the novelty of eating real Chinese dishes and drinking the right sort of Chinese tea. He might have added that they had also shown considerable good nature in paying the high price that he asks for a dish of "chop suey," but he was silent concerning that subject. In San Francisco, Chicago or New York, where this famous Chinese culinary preparation has become very popular, you can get your dish of chop suey for 25 cents, and the tea is given you gratis for good measure. Moy Kee asks double this price, and gets it. But then he has no opposition in the Oriental restaurant business. Besides, business is business.

A NEW COOK.

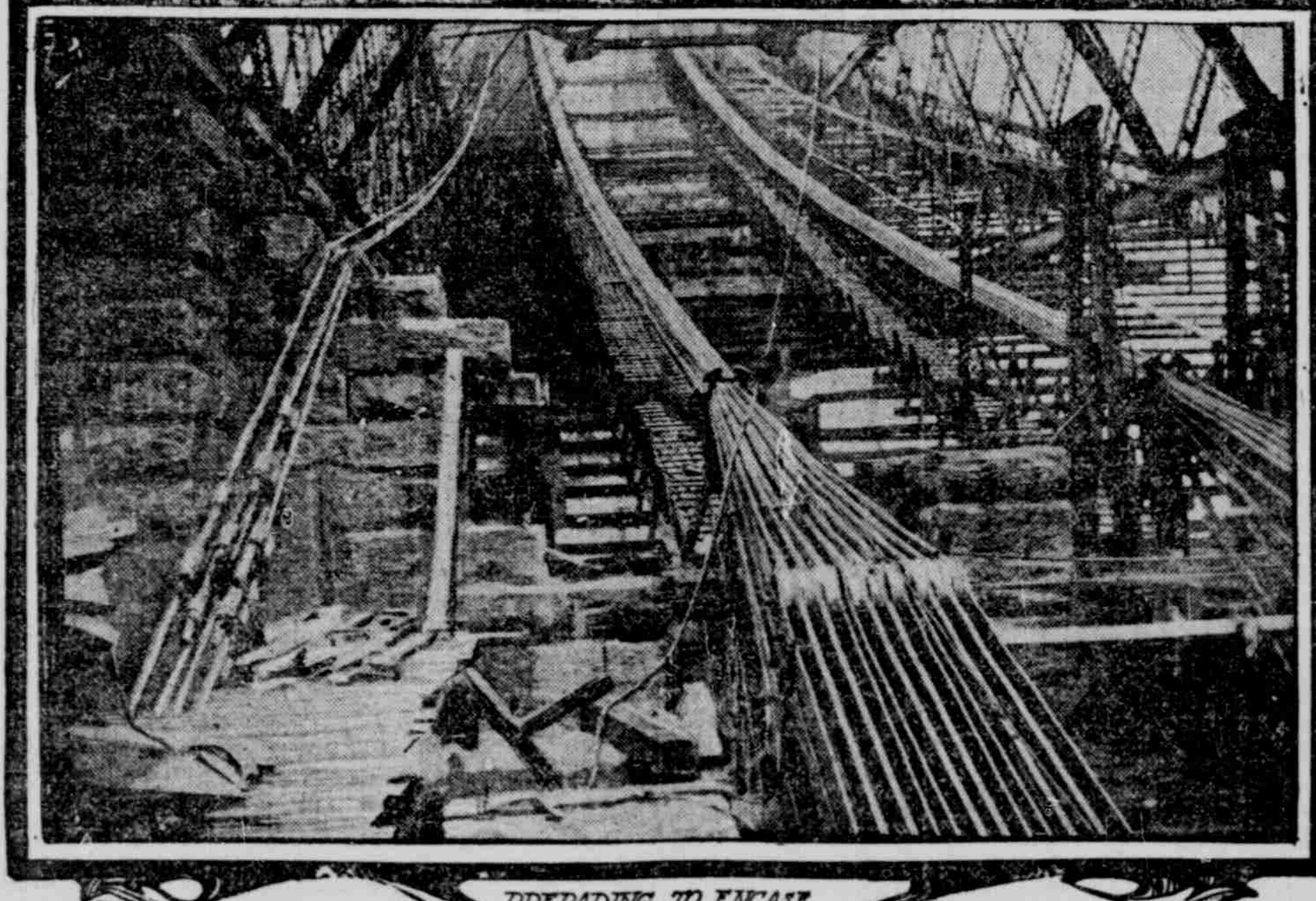
And then, in the course of conversation, Moy Kee let out the great secret, while Mrs. Moy Kee smiled brightly from her "opside" as she called it, and the newspaper man called it. The restaurant had a new cook—"a professional Chinese cook from San Francisco," as the proud little proprietor explained, "and one of the best in the country." And the new cook was produced on the spot—brought forth from the mysterious kitchen with the odors of a thousand fries and boilings and bakings clinging steadfastly to his loose, blue blouse and his sparkling white trousers. His name was Moy Hon, he said—not the Chinaman of similar cognomen that used to live in Indianapolis—oh, dear, no!—but another Moy Hon, "and a much better one," his eyes seemed to add. He had cooked in San Francisco's Chinatown, at one of the best restaurants on Dupont street, he went on to say in his own way, of course, and he had cooked for private families up on the hills where the rich people lived, and where he was paid a salary of sixty dollars a month. And now he had come East to cook for his old friend, Moy Kee, and to show Indianapolis people what an art Chinese cooking really is. Just why he had given up that sixty-dollar job he didn't say. But he has his good reasons, no doubt. The Chinese are too mercenary, a people to neglect pecuniary opportunities. It's safe to say, though, that Moy Hon doesn't get his sixty in these parts.

With the valued assistance of the restaurant proprietor, who speaks as good English as does any merchant prince in San Francisco's Mongolian settlement, Moy Hon gave out some information regarding Chinese cooking which proved interesting. The three-cornered conversation cannot be set down here just as it took place, without getting the compositors into trouble, and will have to be recorded with the rich Canton dialect left out. In the first place Moy Hon says that it is all a mistake for Caucasians to assume that all Chinese eat such things as rats and lizards, as there are no vermin existing between the food of the several classes of Chinese society. In variety and abundance, he says, the diet of the well-to-do Chinese will compare with that of the people of any other country, while, on the other hand, the poorest class will eat some things that are looked upon as garbage and refused by Americans.

CULTIVATED GRAINS.

"The grains which are cultivated in China," explained the little cook through his interpreter, "are principally rice, wheat and millet, although rye and maize are to be found in the markets of Canton at certain seasons of the year. Oats and barley are raised in very small quantities, as the Chinese do not regard them as fit for human beings to eat. All Chinamen are fond of garden plants and cultivate most of them. There are many varieties of cabbage grown in China, and the people give more attention to this than any other garden vegetable. The most common is called 'poh tsee,' or white greens, on account of its being blanched. It often resembles kale than cabbage, and does not form a head. These plants sometimes weigh fifty or twenty pounds and grow to be three feet high. When eaten raw this cabbage is not inferior to lettuce as a salad, and when boiled the taste resembles asparagus. Sometimes we pickle it like the German sauer kraut, but more often fry it in oil. I wish we had some of these vegetables here in Indianapolis to offer to our patrons, as next to rice, they form the favorite food of China among all classes. "Onions and garlic we use abundantly in our cooking, prepared in many ways, as pickling, frying and boiling, besides being used in the preparation of such dishes as chop suey and for seasoning purposes. Our people are partial to the preserves of fruits of almost all kinds, and these, together

GREAT BRIDGE NEARING COMPLETION.



Preparing to install the cable strands. All the cables have been strung on the new suspension bridge over East river, New York, and finishing work will soon be under way. The bridge is one of the great engineering feats of modern times. Above is a snap-shot view of the structure as it appeared last week.